

I have found that young people in North Dakota are excited about Character Counts. Nearly a year ago, I brought together a group of about three dozen North Dakotans, including several young people, to introduce them to the Character Counts Program. Out of that meeting was born a Character Counts initiative in North Dakota, under the leadership of 4-H youth specialist Geri Bosch.

In the year since then, Geri and her army of college- and high school-aged 4-H youth ambassadors have been traveling throughout North Dakota to share the Character Counts concept with children, youth, and adults alike, and Character Counts is spreading like wildfire in my State. In December alone, nearly 200 concerned adults participated in Character Counts training so that they could take Character Counts back to their communities. Even more exciting, more than 1,000 young people in North Dakota have participated in the Character Counts Program directly in some way throughout the last year, and countless other kids have been indirectly influenced for the better through the teachers, youth leaders, clergy members, and other concerned citizens who touch their lives daily.

I have been proud to play some small role in supporting Character Counts in North Dakota and our country. Through these kinds of efforts, we can build a better future for our kids, and I want to again pledge my continued help and support for teaching the pillars of good character. •

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 447

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate bill 447, introduced earlier today by Senator NICKLES, be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRA- TION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 25, Senate Resolution 56.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 56) designating March 25, 1997, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to recon-

sider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD as if read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 56) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 56

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was invested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew heavily upon the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the founders of the modern Greek state modeled their government after that of the United States in an effort to best imitate their ancient democracy;

Whereas Greece is one of the only three nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century;

Whereas the heroism displayed in the historic world War II Battle of Crete epitomized Greece's sacrifice for freedom and democracy as it presented the Axis land war with its first major setback and set off a chain of events which significantly affected the outcome of World War II.

Whereas these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 1997 marks the 176th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution which freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people, and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our two great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That March 25, 1997 is designated as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of Senate Resolution 59, and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 59) designating the month of March of each year as "Irish American Heritage Month."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to join 50 of my colleagues as sponsors of this Senate resolution to designate the month of March each year as "Irish-American Heritage Month."

Irish-Americans have contributed to every aspect of American life—business and labor, agriculture and industry, education and the arts, science and religion, at every level of government, and in all aspects of public service.

From the days of the earliest settlers to our shores, immigrants from Ireland have found hope and opportunity and new lives in America. They powered our industrial revolution. They took jobs as laborers. They dug the canals. They built the railroads that took America to the West. Even today, it is said that under every railroad tie, an Irishman is buried.

In all of these ways and many more, Irish-Americans have contributed immensely to our Nation and they continue to do so. In a very real sense, their greatest legacy is our modern Nation.

Today, over 44 million Americans are of Irish descent. They are proud of America and proud of their Irish heritage, and it is fitting that we pass this resolution honoring this extraordinary aspect of our history.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and its preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be placed in the RECORD in the appropriate place as if read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 59) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, are as follows:

S. RES. 59

Whereas by 1776 nearly 300,000 persons had emigrated to the United States from Ireland;

Whereas following the Revolutionary War victory of Washington's troops at Yorktown, a French Major General reported that Congress and America owed its existence, and possibly its preservation, to the support of the Irish;

Whereas at least 8 signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin;

Whereas more than 200 Irish Americans have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor;

Whereas 19 Presidents of the United States proudly claim Irish heritage, including the first president, George Washington;

Whereas 44 million American citizens are of Irish descent; and

Whereas the Irish and their descendants have contributed greatly to the enrichment of all aspects of life in the United States, including military and government service, science, education, art, agriculture, business, industry, and athletics: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of March of each year as "Irish American Heritage Month"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation designating the month of March of each year as "Irish American Heritage Month" and calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.